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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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The "Bol'shevik" Plant #232, Leningrad

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## General Description

1. "The Bol'shevik Plant No. 232, formerly the Obukhov Plant, is located in the city of Leningrad in Volodarskiy Rayon, near Murzinka village. Because the plant occupies such a large area along the left bank of the Neva River, the managing personnel often move about it in automobiles. The Bol'shevik Plant was well known in pre-revolutionary times, during the so-called 'Obukhov Defense' period. Workers of the Bol'shevik Plant, and the Kirov Plant (formerly Patilov Plant), were of proletarian origin, a fact of which the Communists are proud. These workers helped the Bolsheviks seize power in St. Petersburg [now Leningrad], and all of the USSR. Since the establishment of Soviet rule, the government has given much attention to the Bol'shevik Plant. Presence of experienced engineering and technical specialists, and qualified workers made it possible quickly to put into production new types of arms developed at the plant design bureau. In 1939, one of the leading designers at the plant, Dmitriy Fedorovich Ustinov, was appointed plant director, replacing comrade Zinov' Ruda

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2. "Ustinov, [redacted] succeeded in gaining the confidence of the Kremlin. The plant was awarded the Order of Lenin. The young director Ustinov also received the Order of Lenin for developing a new type of gun for coast artillery. Not long before World War II, by Stalin's personal order, D. F. Ustinov was appointed Minister of Armaments of the USSR, replacing Vyannikov who, as it turned out later, was arrested by mistake. Vyannikov and his assistants spent seven days in the Lyubyanka prison. Later, an independent Ministry of Munitions was set up, with Vyannikov, now vindicated, at its head. Ustinov is still one of the leading figures in the Soviet government. As of 15 March 1953, he was the Minister of Defense /Industry/ USSR.

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[redacted] the time Lavrentiy Beria made his report. [Fnu] Sushko was appointed director of the Bol'shevik Plant to replace Ustinov.

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3. "Before 1941, the Bol'shevik Plant went through an extensive reorganization. Two units were separated from the Bol'shevik Plant and were made independent plants, the Plant imeni Voroshilov, and the LOMZ (Leningrad Optical Instrument Plant).
4. "The Plant imeni Voroshilov, formerly a unit of the Bol'shevik Plant, is situated 600-700 meters to the west of the Bol'shevik Plant. It produces medium tanks and employs 3,000 people [plant and office workers]. Plant production shops were built in the second half of the thirties. Its one-story buildings are made of red brick, without stucco on the outside. The area of the enterprise is surrounded by wooden fences, with towers on the corners, and barbed wire over the two row fence. The solid fence is three meters high with one meter high barbed wire on top.
5. "The LOMZ Plant is situated in the area adjacent to the Bol'shevik Plant and is separated from the Bol'shevik Plant by a three-foot-high brick wall which runs at a 90° angle to the Neva River, thus separating its grounds from the northwest [part] of the Bol'shevik Plant. The LOMZ Plant produces optical devices for naval vessels, sights for naval and coast artillery, and precision measurement devices, mainly indicators.
6. "The Bol'shevik Plant itself was re-equipped and modernized before the war [World War II] and even more was done after the end of the war. In 1948, the plant employed 22,000 persons. During that period, special attention was paid to [redacted] the production of a new type of 350 mm and 182 mm armor piercing shell for coast and naval artillery, and 1,000, 1,500, and 2,000 kilogram bombs. The Eraba bomb is intended for dropping on large enemy naval vessels, and the Bataba bomb is intended for fortified shore installations and fortifications. All heavy shells and bombs for the Soviet Navy, because of their size and weight, are produced by the Ministry of Armaments USSR, and not by the Ministry of Munitions USSR as prescribed by government regulations establishing functions of each ministry.
7. "The Bol'shevik Plant also produces heavy artillery guns for naval ships and for fortifications in coastal areas. Several models of 182 mm, 350 mm, and other sizes are produced for artillery installations. This plant also produces gun barrels for other similar plants in the country. It does this task because it has the necessary equipment and trained personnel to do a good job of heat treating and machining of long artillery gun barrels. The Bol'shevik Plant No. 232 is the main USSR producer of the items mentioned above, and it is the leading plant in the Ministry of Armaments USSR.
8. "Original plant production buildings and other buildings and installations were built before the revolution. Subsequently, especially after the war [World War II], expansion work has been done by building additional buildings and by rearranging production space to conform to new production demands and increased production goals. All buildings, with the exception of new buildings, are built of brick with solid walls. All new buildings are made with walls one brick thick, which is common practice in socialist construction.
9. "On the plant grounds there are several railroad tracks on which deliveries of raw materials are made and finished products are shipped out. Large gun barrels are shipped on four-axle railroad flatcars. Gun barrels are camouflaged, and are usually shipped out at night. Gun barrels are mounted on platforms on special wooden supporters. There are also narrow-gauge tracks for intershop transport. Narrow-gauge tracks are laid in shops, too. Heavy pig iron ingots and semifinished products are delivered right into shops to the machine tools and heat-treating furnaces.
10. "The plant is surrounded on all sides by 3.5-4 foot solid walls with two rows of barbed wire on top. Windows of old buildings facing Prospekt Obukhovskoy Oboroni are bricked up to a height of 2 meters; the unbricked openings are protected by gratings made of square iron rods. Everywhere one may see watch towers with armed guards. After dark, walls and areas adjacent to them are illuminated on both sides by projectors. The guard house is located inside the plant near the main gate and the administration office.
11. "The plant has its own fire department, located within the enterprise, consisting of three vehicles and several hand pumps mounted on hand cars. The fire department also serves the Voroshilov Plant and the LOMZ Plant. Officers and men of the guard and the

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fire department are selected by the Rayon MVD, and are subordinate to it. Personnel guarding gates and guard houses are under the plant guard.

#### Production

12. "Production at Plant No. 232 is managed by the former chief of shell shop No. 50, comrade /fnu/ Smirnov. Drawings developed by the plant design division and approved by the Main Administration of Artillery in Moscow are submitted to the plant technical division for developing technical processes for established, experimental, or series production. Setting up of technological processes is governed by the number of items to be produced. In producing experimental models, the plant avoids the use of new, special, expensive machines and tools, but tries to make use of existing equipment used for similar items. Completed technological processes are developed in every detail for series or mass production. Drawings for special tools and equipment needed for a particular item of production are made in the plant tool shop under the direction of the plant production division. The production division makes all the necessary preparations for the production of a new item.
13. "Chiefs of shops to which a particular type of production has been assigned, together with mechanics and the plant chief mechanic, select, prepare, and if needed, repair the /production/ equipment. Foremen acquaint themselves with drawings and select workers for practical execution of forthcoming tasks.
14. "The great interest displayed by the Soviet government in the 1948 model of the 350 mm armor-piercing shell, and the government's firm decision to expand the production of this shell in following years influenced my decision to give a detailed description of this item. Armor-piercing shells are made in three shops. The forge shop, where the chrome-nickel target is hammered by a Bishop steam hammer, as a result of which the structure of the metal is made more compact, the heat treating shop, where the body of the shell and its armor-piercing head undergo a heat treatment for obtaining the hardness desired, and the machine shop, where the main part of the shell making work is performed, amounting to more than 95% of all the work.

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#### Shell Shop No. 50 (Machine)

15. "Shell Shop No. 50 is located in the northeastern part of the Bul'shevsk Plant. The shop occupies a solid brick, two-story building. The lower floor has a very high clearance permitting locomotives to drive in and out. On the first floor there are two central overhead traveling cranes, while in the assembly section and in the technical control division there are several electric hoists. All the heavy equipment is located on the lower floor, as is the auxiliary material, the tool storehouse, and departments where various services are rendered to the workers. The light equipment, storerooms, the technical bureau of the shop, the planning division, the accounting department and the shop director's office are located on the second floor. The shop operates in three shifts and employs 800 people. The shop is headed by engineer /fnu/ Gerasimov, who was the shop deputy chief prior to Smirnov's appointment to the position of production chief and deputy chief engineer.
16. "The shop is fully manned with administrative and production personnel. There are many specialists who have been with the plant 20-30 years. Most of the production personnel are young people but there are many older workers who have been with the enterprise for many years; the percentage of women at the plant is less than the percentage that is usual at machinery plants. The reason that there are fewer women is explained by the fact that most of the work is heavy. Heavy work also accounts for a large number (a difference between Soviet and Western enterprises) of auxiliary workers at shop No. 50, in which all auxiliary operations are performed manually. The number of white collar employees in shop No. 50 is 47, which is a large number. Planning in a socialist-type economy, the multiple control system organized by the Communists, and the complicated accounting system have created an army of workers. The West /Western enterprises/ can operate successfully and cut the cost of production without such an army of workers.
17. "The shop is equipped with special lathes without tailstock which are called 'Gramofon' because they look like a gramophone. When boring the inner chamber, the body of the shell is placed halfway into the headstock. All basic tasks of turning shell bodies and boring inner chambers of shell bodies and armor-piercing caps is done on Gramofon lathes. The

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remaining equipment in the shop is similar to other machine shops.

18. "In 1948, monthly production at the shop was 1,250 units of 182 mm and 500 units of 350 mm armor-piercing shells, and 250 units of Braba and Betaba bombs of various weights. Production could be easily increased if more Gramofon lathes were added, since their shortage is the cause of the bottleneck in fulfilling production schedules. But on the other hand, the shop has troubles from lack of space for production needs. Production could be increased also through improving cutting dies, so as to allow higher speeds.

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